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D₁ 7. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said measuring the amount of BAG-1 protein is with an agent that binds BAG-1 protein.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said agent is an antibody specific for the BAG-1 protein.

E₁
D₂ 11. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said level of BAG-1 expression is determined by measuring the amount of BAG-1 protein/product using an immunoassay.

13. (Twice amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 expression is determined prior to lymph node involvement of said cancer.

D₃ 14. (Twice amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 expression is determined after lymph node involvement of said cancer.

E₂
D₄ 16. (Twice amended) A method for prognosis of disease-free or overall survival of an individual having a cancer tumor, comprising determining the level of BAG-1 expression in a sample of said tumor or a body fluid during stage I or stage II of said cancer, wherein a high level of BAG-1 expression correlates positively with disease-free or overall survival, wherein said cancer is breast cancer.

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18. (Twice amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 expression is determined by measuring the level of mRNA encoding BAG-1.

19. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 expression is determined by measuring BAG-1 protein levels.

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p3
20. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein that is detectable in samples selected from the group consisting of breast tumor tissue, blood, serum, and plasma.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising determining if said level of BAG-1 expression represents an overproduction that is above a reference level of BAG-1 expression.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said reference level of BAG-1 expression is determined by a histogram analysis.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said reference level of BAG-1 expression is determined relative to a level of BAG-1 expression produced by *in vitro* cultured cells which produce BAG-1.

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24. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said reference level of BAG-1 expression is determined relative to a level of BAG-1 expression in non-cancerous cells.

SUB E3
15 25. (Twice amended) A method for predicting the risk of tumor recurrence or spread in an individual having a cancer tumor, comprising determining whether BAG-1 protein is produced in a sample of said tumor or body fluid from said individual, such a production correlating negatively with a likelihood of tumor recurrence or spread, wherein said cancer is stage I or stage II breast cancer.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

sub E47
(a) determining an overproduction level for BAG-1 protein, said level being in excess of a minimum amount statistically determined to be indicative of decreased likelihood of tumor recurrence or spread;

(b) determining the level of BAG-1 expression in said tumor sample; and

(c) predicting said risk of tumor recurrence or spread wherein an overproduction level of BAG-1 protein in the tumor sample is negatively associated with the likelihood of tumor recurrence or spread.

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Sub E-4 → 27. (Twice amended) A method for screening a cancer patient to determine the risk of tumor metastasis, said method comprising:

D5 (a) determining the level of amplification or expression of BAG-1 in a cancerous tissue sample or a body fluid sample from said patient during stage I or stage II of said cancer; and

(b) classifying a patient having high levels of amplification or expression of BAG-1, relative to a reference level, as being less likely to suffer tumor metastasis or having a increased chance of survival, wherein said cancer is breast cancer.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein BAG-1 amplification is measured with a probe specific for BAG-1.

D6 30. (Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein gene expression is determined by measuring the amount of BAG-1 mRNA transcription.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein gene expression is determined by measuring the amount of BAG-1 protein.

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D6 SUB
ES 32. (Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the
amount of BAG-1 protein is measured using an immunoassay.

SUB
E6 34. (Twice amended) A method for determining the
proper course of treatment for a patient suffering from cancer,
said method comprising:

(a) determining the level of BAG-1 expression in a
cancerous tissue sample or body fluid from said patient
during stage I or stage II of said cancer;

D7 (b) identifying a first group of patients having low
levels of BAG-1 expression, which first group of patients
may require treatment proper for patients having a lesser
chance of survival or decreased time to tumor recurrence or
spread; and

(c) identifying a second group of patients having high
levels of BAG-1 expression, which second group of patients
may require treatment proper for patients having a greater
chance of survival and being less likely to suffer tumor
recurrence or spread,

wherein said cancer is breast cancer.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said
level of BAG-1 expression is determined by measuring the amount
of BAG-1 mRNA transcript or BAG protein.

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D7
Am P 6
36. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said level of BAG-1 expression is determined prior to lymph node involvement.

37. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said level of BAG-1 expression is determined after lymph node involvement of said cancer.

Eⁿ
44. (Thrice amended) A method for determining a prognosis in a patient suffering from cancer, said method comprising:

D8
(a) determining the level of expression of BAG-1 in cancerous tissues of a patient during stage I or stage II of said cancer; and

(b) classifying said patient as belonging either to a first group of patients having high levels of expression of BAG-1, or a second group of patients having low levels of expression of BAG-1,

wherein said first group has a lower likelihood of tumor recurrence or spread than said second group, and wherein said cancer is breast cancer.